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11**R E P O R T**

of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification
of Credentials and Immunities

on amendment of Rule 117(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the
European Parliament concerning the appointment of
rapporteurs by committees

Rapporteur: Mrs Margarida SALEMA

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PE 140.454/fin.
Or. FR

A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">*</div>	= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">**II</div>	= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">**I</div>	= Cooperation procedure (first reading)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">***</div>	= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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Annex: Proposal for amendment of the Rules of Procedure (B3-0244/90)

At the sitting of 2 April 1990, the President of the European Parliament announced that he had referred the proposal for amendment of the Rules of Procedure by Mr COLLINS (B3-0244/90), pursuant to Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure, to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 26 and 27 April 1990 the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities decided to draw up a report and appointed Mrs Salema rapporteur.

At its meetings of 19, 20 and 21 June 1990, 26 and 27 June 1990 and 17 and 18 September 1990 it considered the draft report.

At the latter meeting it adopted the proposal for a decision unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Wijsenbeek, acting chairman; Salema, rapporteur; Capucho (for Defraigne), Gil Robles, Herman (for Malangre), McIntosh, Patterson (for Prout), Rogalla and Taradash.

The report was tabled on 24 September 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

Current Text

Proposed new text

Rule 117

Committee reports on consultations

Paragraph 2

2. Following a decision on the procedure to be followed, and if Rule 116 does not apply, the committee shall appoint a rapporteur on the Commission proposal from among its members or permanent substitutes.

2. Following a decision on the procedure to be followed, and if Rule 116 does not apply, the committee shall appoint a rapporteur on the Commission proposal from among its members or permanent substitutes, if it has not yet done so on the basis of the annual legislative programme agreed on under Rule 29 B.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION

on the amendment of Rule 117(2) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure,
on the appointment of rapporteurs by committees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the undertakings given under the 1990 annual legislative programme (PE 139.832, OJ No. C 113, 7.5.1990),
 - mindful of the need to use all measures at its disposal to help improve the effectiveness of interinstitutional relations and ensure more rapid preparation and implementation of legislative programming,
 - whereas such measures would include allowing committees responsible to appoint rapporteurs on matters included in the annual legislative programme, following adoption of the latter, pursuant to Rule 29 A of the Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the proposal for an amendment to the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure (B3-244/90),
 - taking Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure as a legal basis,
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure, the Verification of Credentials and Immunities (A3-227/90),
1. Decides to include the above amendments in its Rules of Procedure;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and Commission, for information.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

As part of the annual legislative programme for 1990 agreed under Rule 29 A of the Rules of Procedure, Parliament undertook to use appropriate measures to help improve the effectiveness of interinstitutional relations. These measures include the appointment, following adoption of the legislative programme, of rapporteurs on future proposals announced in the programme (point II(6) of the annual legislative programme for 1990, PE 139.832, OJ No. C 113, 7.5.1990).

Mr Collins submitted a proposal for an amendment to Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure, the aim of which was to make provision for committees responsible to appoint rapporteurs before the formal consultation of Parliament on Commission proposals.

At present, Rule 117 simply lays down the procedure for the drafting of reports by committees 'where Parliament is asked for its opinion on a Commission proposal' (Rule 117(1)).

However, the appointment of rapporteurs on matters included in the annual legislative programme and which are therefore to be the subject of future Commission proposals may have important advantages, e.g.:

- it would enable the committee responsible, through its appointed rapporteur, to keep abreast of the legislative process more effectively from the initial stages, in particular by establishing at an early stage the informal contacts considered useful and necessary for strengthening interinstitutional cooperation;
- it would contribute, during the formal consultation on Commission proposals, to greater speed in the drafting of reports by the committee responsible, thus preventing the delays caused by any failure to appoint rapporteurs at an earlier stage.

Rather than adding a new paragraph 4 to Rule 117, the proposal would amend the present paragraph 2 of this same rule. Thus the procedure for appointing rapporteurs by committees will be kept to a single paragraph without affecting the clarity of the rules.

The wording adopted safeguards the proposed amendment, while deliberately ensuring that it is not given undue prominence by forming a separate paragraph. The systematic appointment of rapporteurs on matters included in the annual legislative programme, immediately following adoption of the latter, could result in referral disputes between committees, with adverse effects (the opposite of those desired) on Parliament's work. This procedure should therefore not become standard practice and should be used only where, in the nature of the matter, there are no doubts as to which committee is the committee responsible.

PROPOSAL FOR AN AMENDMENT (B3-0244/90) to Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, tabled by Mr Collins pursuant to Rule 132 of the Rules of Procedure

Add a new paragraph to Rule 117:

4. The committee responsible may appoint a rapporteur-designate for items included in the Annual Legislative Programme adopted by the Enlarged Bureau and the Commission pursuant to Rule 29B(4).

